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Letter dated 2 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan on 17 February 2017, in which it welcomes the statement issued by the Troika (Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States) on the Sudan peace process (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 2 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Department of Media and Public Relations
Press Release

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement welcoming the joint statement issued on 17 February 2017 by the Troika States (the United States, the United Kingdom and Norway) on the peace process in the Sudan. The latter statement noted the seriousness of the Government of the Sudan, its responsiveness to the Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, its commitment to the ceasefire it had announced and its decision to accept the proposal of the United States to deliver humanitarian aid to those affected by the war in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States. The Troika statement called on the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)/North to accept African Union mediation and the United States proposal to deliver humanitarian aid to the two areas. It also called on the armed movements in Darfur to engage in the peace process and urged the Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid movement to cease hostilities and immediately engage in the ongoing peace process.

The Ministry's statement reaffirms the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to press ahead with its strategic choice of pursuing the peace process. The Government is working earnestly and sincerely with the Sudanese parties, and cooperating honestly and respectfully with Mr. Thabo Mbeki, the Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, whose active efforts are appreciated. The Ministry also notes the appreciation of the Government of the Sudan for the continued efforts of the Troika States and their support for the sustainable peace and security roadmap in Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile and Darfur States. Conditions in those States have improved and are now stable. The statement concludes by reiterating that the Government of the Sudan is fully committed to the ceasefire that it had declared and urges the armed opposition movements to respond immediately and earnestly to calls for dialogue and peace. It also urges them to join the dialogue and negotiation process in order to promote security, stability, national accord and comprehensive development, and it calls on SPLM/North to approve without delay the United States initiative to deliver humanitarian aid. A spirit of reconciliation has taken hold in the Sudan, with wide-ranging dialogue taking place as well as lively partisan political activity. There are more than 80 parties in the country and over 30 daily newspapers. There is no doubt that the Sudan is striving to address the roots of the conflict in the country, and it needs the international community's help in further integrating the Sudanese economy into the global economy. The international community must also forgive the country's debts, as it promised to do when the Naivasha peace agreement was signed, help the Sudan join the World Trade Organization and increase development aid, investment and trade.

Khartoum, 17 February 2017
Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Annex II to the letter dated 2 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Joint Troika statement supporting the African Union High-level Implementation Panel peace process in the Sudan

The Troika (Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States) expresses its continued support for the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) peace process, led by former South African President Thabo Mbeki. In support of the AUHIP-brokered Roadmap Agreement signed by both the Government of the Sudan and the opposition, the Troika urges the signatories to honour the Agreement by concluding comprehensive cessations of hostilities and engaging in an inclusive political dialogue. The Government of the Sudan must now create an environment that is conducive to freedom of expression and political participation by both armed and unarmed opposition in the Sudan.

The Troika is also encouraged by the decision of the Government of the Sudan to accept the proposal of the United States to support humanitarian assistance to Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States (the "Two Areas"). The proposal of the United States is intended to facilitate humanitarian assistance to affected populations in the Two Areas, in line with AUHIP efforts for broader negotiated humanitarian access. The Troika urges the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to swiftly accept this proposal and facilitate the delivery of life-saving assistance to those in need in the Two Areas.

The ongoing unilateral ceasefires are a significant step towards peace throughout the Sudan. However, in order to realize sustainable peace, all parties must engage in a political process. The Troika also encourages continued engagement by the armed movements from Darfur with the AUHIP peace process. We call on the Sudan Liberation Movement/Abdul Wahid al-Nur to cease hostilities and immediately engage with the AUHIP peace process. The Troika also encourages the Government of the Sudan to make progress on addressing the root causes of the conflict.

17 February 2017